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JOURNAL

OF THE

THIRTY-FIRST CONVENTION

OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

HELD IN ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,
ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY THE SECOND AND THIRD DAYS
OF MAY, 1815.

PHILADELPHIA:

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MEMBERS PRESENT.

CLERGY:

THE Right Rev. *William White*, D. D. Bishop.

The Rev. *Robert Blackwell*, D. D.

James Abercrombie, D. D. Senior Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.

Joseph Pilmore, D. D. Rector of St. Paul's, Philadelphia.

Frederic Beasley, D. D. Provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Turner, Rector of St. Martin's, Marcus Hook.

Slator Clay, Rector of St. James's, Perkiomen; St. Peter's, Great Valley; and St. David's, Radnor.

James Wiltbank, Rector of Trinity Church, Oxford, and All Saints, Lower Dublin.

Levi Bull, Rector of St. Gabriel's, Berks county, and St. Mary's, Chester county.

John Armstrong, Rector of St. John's, Yorktown.

Jackson Kemper, Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.

Richard D. Hall, Rector of St. James's, Bristol.

Jehu Curtis Clay, Deacon, officiating at Norristown and Germantown.

James Milnor, Deacon, Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.

LAY DELEGATES.

From Christ Church, Philadelphia,	Henry Pratt,
	William Murdock,
	Lewis Neill,
St. Peter's, Philadelphia,	Daniel Smith,
	Joseph Sims,
St. James's, do.	Thomas M'Euen,
	Richard Dale,
	John Markland,
St. Paul's, do.	P. F. Glentworth,
	Walter Kerr,
	John Claxton,
St. Mary's, Chester county,	Matthias Kaler,
	James Richards,
St. Gabriel's, Berks county,	David Jones,
	Jacob Warren,
Trinity Church, Oxford,	Sereck Fox,
	John Lardner,
St. John's, Norristown,	Levi Pauling,
St. Martin's, Marcus Hook,	John Taylor, jun.
St. John's, Concord,	John Peirce,
St. James's, Bristol,	John M'Elroy,
	Joseph King,
St. David's, Radnor,	Philip Sheaff,
	John Brooke,
All Saints, Lower Dublin,	Joseph Ashton,
St. James's, Perkiomen,	John Shannon, jun.

The following clergymen were absent from this Convention: the Rev. Joseph Hutchins, D. D.; the Rev. William Ayres; the Rev. John Campbell; the Rev. Joseph Clarkson; the Rev. Robert Ayres; the Rev. Francis Reno; the Rev. Caleb Hopkins, and the Rev. John Taylor.

JOURNAL, &c.

MAY 2d, 1815.

THIS being the day appointed by the Constitution for the meeting of the Convention, and several clerical and lay members being assembled in St. James's Church, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the bishop took the chair, and the Convention was organized. The Rev. Jackson Kemper was chosen secretary.

According to the 15th regulation, the list of the clergy entitled to seats in this Convention was called over, when it appeared that the following were present: the Right Rev. William White, D. D.; the Rev. Robert Blackwell, D. D.; the Rev. James Abercrombie, D. D.; the Rev. Joseph Pilmorc, D. D.; the Rev. Frederick Beasley, D. D.; the Rev. James Wiltbank; the Rev. John Armstrong; the Rev. Jackson Kemper; the Rev. Richard D. Hall, and the Rev. James Milnor.

The following lay delegates presented testimonials of their appointment, and were admitted to seats: Henry Pratt, William Murdock, and Lewis Neill from Christ Church, Philadelphia; Daniel Smith and Joseph Sims from St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia; Thomas McEuen, Richard Dale, and John Markland from St. James's Church, Philadelphia; Dr. Glentworth and Walter Kerr from St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia; Matthias Kaler and James Richards from St. Mary's, Chester county; David Jones and Jacob Warren from St. Gabriel's, Amity township, Berks county; and Sereck Fox from Trinity Church, Oxford.

It being stated that a congregation has been formed and incorporated, and a Church erected and consecrated at Norristown, Montgomery county, by the name of St. John's Church; Levi Pauling, esq. was received as a delegate from said congregation.

The following clergymen were absent: the Rev. Joseph Hutchins, D. D.; the Rev. William Ayres; the Rev. John Campbell; the Rev. Joseph Turner; the Rev. Slator Clay; the Rev. Joseph Clarkson; the Rev. Robert Ayres; the Rev. Francis Reno;

the Rev. Caleb Hopkins; the Rev. John Taylor; the Rev. Levi Bull; and the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay.

On motion, adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at half past 10 o'clock, A. M.

Wednesday morning, 3d of May, 1815.

DIVINE SERVICE was celebrated by the Rev. Jehu C. Clay, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Beasley.

All the members who appeared yesterday were present to-day, except Dr. Blackwell. The Rev. Levi Bull, the Rev. Sator Clay, the Rev. Joseph Turner, and the Rev. Jehu C. Clay were likewise present. The following lay delegates presented testimonials of their appointment, and were admitted to seats: Mr. Claxton from St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia; John Taylor, jun. from St. Martin's, Marcus Hook; John Peirce from St. John's, Concord; John M'Elroy and Joseph King from St. James the Greater's, Bristol; Philip Sheaff and John Brooke from St. David's, Radnor; John Lardner from Trinity Church, Oxford; Joseph Ashton from All Saints', Lower Dublin; and John Shannon, jun. from St. James's, Perkiomen.

Agreeably to the 45th canon of the General Convention of 1808, the bishop delivered the following address:

My brethren, the clergy and the lay deputies of this Convention;

What I have to lay before you, or that can properly be brought within the compass of this address, consists of very few articles.

I have not made any visits for the purpose of confirmation, beyond the limits of the city, except at Germantown, where I preached and confirmed on the 13th of November. No invitations to the same effect, have come to me from my brethren of the clergy. This may have been owing to the unsettled state of the whole country, during the last summer; when a great proportion of the inhabitants were called from their homes into the field. That no incitements to the work came from me, was owing to the expectation in which I was delayed during the whole season, of meeting some of my episcopal brethren for the consecration of a

suffragan bishop for the diocese of Maryland. Much correspondence was necessary for the accomplishment of this design; chiefly, on account of the difficulty of fixing on a time, when it would be convenient for three bishops to assemble. Hence it happened, owing to interfering engagements of my brethren, that the measure was delayed to the beginning of September.

On the 1st of that month, in the city of New Brunswick, New Jersey, there took place the consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. James Kemp, which I mention with satisfaction, as well because of my respect for him, grounded on an acquaintance of many years, as in consideration of the addition which it brings to the prospect of perpetuating the American episcopacy.

The Rev. Mr. Turner has resigned the charge of the Church at Marcus Hook. His advanced age and the distance from his home, are his reasons for declining any further pastoral connexion with a people, to whom he is very dear; and whom he has served for many years on the most disinterested terms. I understand from him, that until they shall have obtained another pastor, he proposes to visit them occasionally, as health and circumstances may permit.

Our ministry has been increased by the addition of the Rev. James Milnor to the clergy of the three Churches, in parochial union, in the city. Before his election to that charge, he was ordained to the office of deacon: and this is the only ordination performed by me during the last year.

On the 6th of the present month, I had the satisfaction of consecrating a new Church at Norristown. The size and the beauty of the building does great credit to the zeal of the few members of our communion, resident in that small town and its vicinity; and will doubtless be duly estimated by this body.

It will also be agreeable to them to learn, that during the last summer, there was made another missionary tour, under the auspices of the Society for the Advancement of Christianity, by the Rev. Mr. Kemper; much to the satisfaction of the neighbourhoods visited, and of the Society, as may be seen in their report. In very many places within this state, there are a few families of our communion, to whom it is impossible to extend the enjoy-

ments of public worship, on the plan the most agreeable to them; except in proportion as such a society shall be provided with the means of carrying on its labours. This is mentioned with the view of inviting the clerical and lay members of this Convention to assist the good design, by means of contributions within their respective bounds.

It will not be an improper occasion to call the attention of my reverend brethren to the circumstance, that there has lately gone forth among persons of different religious persuasions, and in various sections of the union, and I thank God that our communion is not a stranger to the salutary influence, a spirit of seriousness and of inquiry on religious subjects. The fact is here noticed, as a ground of exhortation to the improvement of it. Let me not be understood to represent what may be accomplished at such a crisis, as the measure of ministerial usefulness. The seed of the Gospel often falls with an effect, unknown to him by whose hand it was distributed: and it occasionally happens to a minister of the Gospel, to be accidentally informed after a lapse of years, of impressions formerly made by him on the hearts of hearers. Thus it is, that the Church feels the effect of the property stamped on it by its Divine Founder, when he compared himself, and impliedly every minister acting under his commission faithfully, to a man sowing seed, which should "spring and grow up, he knoweth not how." But it sometimes happens, that an extraordinary degree of susceptibility is conspicuous; and it is truly astonishing, that the occasional recurrence of this fact has not convinced the partisans of a false philosophy, of the error and the impotency involved in every scheme for the improvement of the condition of mankind, bottomed on the presumption of there not being a powerful operation of the religious principle in all possible states of society; and of there not being designed by the Creator its weighty bearing on them.

While our knowledge of human nature may suggest to us the preceding consideration, our office of the Christian ministry should incite us to improve such opportunities as have been adverted to, for the enlarging of the fold, and the increasing of the flock of Christ. If we are instructed by St. James, in a pertinent

allegory, "that the spiritual husbandman, having lodged the seed of his instructions, is to wait for the early and the latter rain of divine grace;" his patience may be supposed to have acquired additional motive, and his solicitude to be much increased, when, agreeably to a metaphor of our Lord himself, "the fields are white to harvest."

Let not your bishop be understood, as holding out more splendid prospects on the present subject, than can be warranted by experience. He has witnessed too many similar occasions, to depend on fruits commensurate with what passes before the world. It has happened that much animal sensibility, after having deluded in the shape of ardent piety, has sunk into indifference; and that much of faulty passion, after sheltering itself under the cover of apparently religious zeal, has stood confessed in its own odious colours before the world: and each of these cases has been a soil very fruitful of subsequent impiety in some, of pharisaical ostentation in others, and of unconquerable infidelity in not a few. These things prove the more forcibly the urgent call for ministers at once faithful and intelligent—such as were in the contemplation of our Saviour, when he compared them to an "householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasures things new and old."

There may be stated in few words, the course of conduct here thought proper to be pursued in such an exigency. It is, in regard to the beginnings of such sensibility, to distinguish between a sense of the evil of sinful nature and practice, and the imagination set at work by feelings, produced under the influence of sympathy and of mechanical action, on the nervous system; between comfortable frames, dependent on the state of the blood and of the humours, and even of the atmosphere, and religious affections permanently characteristic of the renovation of the heart; and a sanctimonious but barren profession, and "the fruits of the spirit," said to be "in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth."

You will not expect, my reverend brethren, that the subject should be gone into largely: and it has been adverted to, solely with the view of directing your attention and my own to events passing before our eyes, and not to be left unimproved by us to the glory of God, and the salvation of our fellow-men.

In proportion as we contemplate this field of labour, we may deplore the case of every clergyman, who, from the want of an interest taken in the duties of his profession, is disqualified for usefulness in the cases of mental embarrassment, which will occasionally be brought before him, and of every one, whose errors or whose ignorance may lay the foundation, in the minds of any, of a dangerous self-deception; or of an open turning back unto perdition.

I conclude with tendering my wishes and my prayers, that what has been referred to may be improved by us in such a manner, as may be recollected during our future ministry, with satisfaction, and as we may answer to the Great Shepherd and Bishop of souls.

WILLIAM WHITE.

May 3, 1815.

CONFIRMATIONS IN 1814.

In the city,	-	-	-	-	-	137
In Germantown,	-	-	-	-	-	18
						<hr/> 155

The Rev. James Milnor, from the Society for the Advancement of Christianity, presented to the members of the Convention copies of the last annual report of said society.

On motion, resolved that a committee be appointed to examine the last Journal, in order to bring before this Convention the business, if any, that remained unfinished.

The Rev. Mr. Milnor and Dr. Glentworth were appointed a committee to carry the above resolution into effect.

The Rev. Dr. Abercrombie requested and obtained permission to withdraw.

The secretary reported, that, in obedience to a resolution of the last Convention, complete sets of the Journals, together with the three pastoral letters of the house of bishops, bound in the same volume, were ready for delivery to the church-wardens of every congregation within the diocese.

The Convention was informed, that "the corporation for the relief of the widows and children of clergymen in the communion

of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania," had lately been revived, and was now ready to receive the contributions of the clergy.

Agreeably to the 45th Canon of the General Convention, the following parochial reports were read, and ordered to be inserted on the minutes:

Report from the Parish and Church of St. James, the Greater, Bristol, from Convention of 1814 to Convention of 1815, by the Rev. Richard D. Hall, rector.

Baptisms, adults,	-	-	-	25	
children,	-	-	-	58	Total 83
Communicants deceased,	-	-	-	1	
added,	-	-	-	22	Total 112
Marriages,	-	-	-	6	
Burials,	-	-	-	17	

Since the last report, there has been a gracious increase of vital piety in the parish. A religious concern is spreading more extensively; and the most pleasing hopes are entertained that, in this part of our episcopal Zion, "greater things will be seen than those which have already come to pass."

Report from St. John's Church, Norristown, by the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay.

Since the sitting of the last Convention, a large and elegant Church has been completed and consecrated at Norristown. In this place, where, for many years, the episcopal religion was at a low ebb, a bright prospect has opened upon the Church. From the facility with which the pews have been disposed of, and from the growing attention paid to the duty of public worship, there is ground to believe that in this place, the Church has received a valuable acquisition.

Report from the Congregation at Germantown.

Communicants,	-	-	-	15
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JEHU C. CLAY, Minister.

*Report of the United Churches of Christ Church, St. Peter's
Church, and St. James's Church, Philadelphia.*

Marriages,	-	-	-	-	41
Baptisms,	-	-	-	-	228
Burials,	-	-	-	-	130
Communicants, about	-	-	-	-	325

WILLIAM WHITE, *Rector.*

Report of St. John's Church, Yorktown.

Communicants,	-	-	-	38
Baptisms,	-	-	-	12
Funerals,	-	-	-	1
Marriages,	-	-	-	8

JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Rector.*

Report of Trinity and All Saints.

Baptisms,	-	-	-	20
Funerals,	-	-	-	10
Marriages,	-	-	-	4
Communicants,	-	-	-	55

JAMES WILT BANK, *Rector.*

Return of St. Mary's Church.

Baptisms, adults 12, children 22,	-	34
Marriages,	-	18
Communicants,	-	90
Funerals, about	-	10

LEVI BULL, *Rector.*

Report of St. Martin's Church, Marcus Hook.

Communicants, about	-	20
Baptisms, 4 children, 5 adults,	-	9
Burials,	-	4
Marriages,	-	0

JOSEPH TURNER, *Rector.*

Report of St. Gabriel's Church, Berks county.

Communicants,	-	-	-	-	103
Baptisms,	-	-	-	-	17
Burials,	-	-	-	-	4

Taken from the register, by NICHOLAS JONES, *Clerk*.

Report of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia.

Baptisms,	-	-	-	-	87
Marriages,	-	-	-	-	78
Communicants,	-	-	-	-	215
Burials,	-	-	-	-	44

JOSEPH PILMORE, *Rector*.

Parochial Report from St. James's Church, Lancaster; St. John's, Pequea; and Bangor Church, Churchtown.

Baptisms,	-	-	-	-	51
Communicants,	-	-	-	-	60
Marriages,	-	-	-	-	30
Burials,	-	-	-	-	15

JOSEPH CLARKSON, *Rector*.

The committee appointed to examine the Journal of the last Convention reported, that there was no unfinished business remaining upon it.

The treasurer presented a bill for stationary, &c., for the use of the late General Convention held in this city, which was ordered to be paid out of the funds of the Convention.

The delegate from St. Martin's, Marcus Hook, stated to the Convention, that the Rev. Mr. Turner intended to relinquish in a very short time his pastoral care over that Church, and hoped that the congregation might occasionally be favoured with visits from the clergy.

The minutes of the standing committee and council of advice were read by the secretary.

On motion, adjourned to meet this afternoon at three o'clock.

Wednesday afternoon.

Met according to adjournment.

Present of the clergy: the bishop; the Rev. Drs. Pilmore, Abercrombie, and Beasley; and the Rev. Messrs. Slator Clay,

Turner, Wiltbank, Armstrong, Bull, Kemper, Hall, Jehu C. Clay, and Milnor. Of the laity: Messrs. Lardner, Neill, Dale, Markland, Smith, M'Euen, Kaler, Pauling, Kerr, M'Elroy, Warren, Glentworth, Taylor, King, Richards, Jones, and Shannon.

On motion resolved, that hereafter the holy communion be administered at the opening of every annual Convention.

The above resolution is adopted as the 20th regulation.

On motion resolved, that the thanks of this Convention be preferred to the Rev. Dr. Beasley, for his impressive and instructive discourse delivered before them this morning.

On motion resolved, that in order to revive the decaying interests of our Churches in the vicinity of Philadelphia, the bishop be requested to endeavour to obtain missionaries to supply the vacant Churches, so that each of them shall have administered to them the word of salvation and the holy sacraments four times a year; and as much oftener as shall be practicable.

Dr. Glentworth was re-appointed treasurer of the Convention.

The following persons were appointed deputies to the General Convention:

Clergy.

Rev. Dr. Pilmore,
Rev. Dr. Abercrombie,
Rev. Mr. Bull,
Rev. Mr. Kemper,

Laity.

Thomas M'Euen, esq.
Richard Dale, esq.
John M'Elroy, esq.
Dr. Glentworth.

The following persons were elected members of the standing committee and council of advice, until the next annual Convention:

Clergy.

Rev. Dr. Blackwell,
Rev. Dr. Pilmore,
Rev. Mr. Turner,
Rev. Mr. Wiltbank,
Rev. Mr. Kemper,

Laity.

Henry Pratt, esq.
Dr. Glentworth,
Richard Dale, esq.
Thomas M'Euen, esq.
John B. Wallace, esq.

The convention adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in May next, at five o'clock, P. M. in St. James's Church, Philadelphia.

JACKSON KEMPER, *Secretary.*

Dr. Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Pennsylvania, } *In account with P. F. Glentworth, Treasurer, Cr.*

1815. March 11.	To cash paid James Maxwell for printing the 30th Journal of the Convention, - - -	60			By balance - - - - -	159	58
April 7.	Do. W. W. Potter for binding 37 Journals of the Convention, a 20 cents, - - -	7	80		By annual contribution from St. Gabriel's Church, Berks, - - -	5	
May 22.	Do. Assignees of Bradford & Inskeep, for sundries furnished the General Convention, May, 1814, - - -	6	40		Do. St. Mary's, Chester, - - -	5	
June 15.	Do. Rev. J. Kemper, for printed notices for the standing committee, - - -	2	75		Do. St. James's, Perkiomen, - - -	5	
	Do. Elijah Bowen, for two days attendance at St. James's Church, - - -	2	50		Do. Trinity, Oxford, - - -	5	
	To balance in hand, as per contra carried down, - - - - -	217	63		Do. All Saints, Lower Dublin, - - -	10	
		<u>\$ 297</u>	<u>08</u>		Do. St. David's, Radnot, - - -	15	
					Do. St. Peter's, Valley, - - -	5	
					Do. Christ Church, Philad. - - -	20	
					Do. St. Peter's, do. - - -	20	
					Do. St. James's, do. - - -	20	
					Do. St. Paul's, do. - - -	20	
					By cash from St. James's Church, Bristol, - - - - -	7	50
						<u>\$ 297</u>	<u>08</u>
					By balance brought down, - - -	217	63
					Errors excepted,		
					P. F. GLENTWORTH, Treasurer,		

Dr. Episcopate Fund of Pennsylvania, in account with Plunket F. Glentworth, Treasurer, Cr.

1815.		1815.	
May 27.	To cash paid Messrs. M'Euen, Hale, and Davidson, for \$609 62 cents, 6 per cent. stock; at 96 per cent. in the name of Plunket F. Glentworth, Thomas Cumpston, and Thomas M'Euen in trust, - - -		
		\$ 585	23
April 1.	By this sum received, being nine months' interest to this date on certificates of \$850 and \$869 14 cents of United States 6 per cent. stock, - - -		77
May 2.	By a collection at Christ Church, Philad. 30th ult.		
	Do. St. Peter's, do. -		140
	Do. St. James's, do. -		110
	Do. St. Paul's, do. -		165
	Do. St. Gabriel's, Berks co. -		50
	Do. St. Mary's, Chester co. -		20
	Do. Trinity, Oxford, - - -		8
	Do. St. James's, Perkiomen, -		6
			6
	Errors excepted,		
	P. F. GLENTWORTH, Treasurer.	\$ 585	23

